



04-03-06

IPW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	:	William J. Swanson	
Appln. No.	:	10/723,762	
Filed	:	November 26, 2003	Group Art Unit: 1732
Title	:	HIGH-TEMPERATURE MODELING METHOD	Examiner: Daniels, Matthew J.
Docket No.	:	S697.12-0073	

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail No.: EV485713102US

Sir:

This is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on December 30, 2005 in which claims 1-20 were rejected.

I. Response to Obviousness Rejections of Claims 1-7

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Crump, U.S. Patent No. 5,340,433 ("the Crump patent") in view of Tan, U.S. Patent No. 5,142,211 ("the Tan patent"). The Office Action stated the Crump patent was "silent to maintaining physical and thermal separation between the heated build chamber and the gantry that controls motion of the dispensing head". However, the Office Action also stated that the Tan patent discloses "a partition for maintaining physical and thermal separation between chamber and gantry", which when combined with the disclosure in the Crump patent, would render claim 1 obvious. The "partition" relied upon in the Tan patent is belt 36 (shown below in FIG. 1 of the Tan patent), which is used to prevent the escape of dust or other materials (the Tan patent, col. 3, lines 62-65).